Volume 20 No. 12

April 2010

WORKS IN PROGRESS

ESTABLISHED IN 1990 BY THE THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION

Corrie family seeks justice in Israeli trial of Rachel's death

On March 16, the seventh anniversary of Rachel Corrie's death, Tom Wright gave this talk at a remembrance gathering in Olympia.

As you know, the Corrie family is now in Israel after years of procedural delays, for the civil trial against the Israeli military in the case of Rachel's killing. This lawsuit is the culmination of the family's seven-year effort, not just to compel a credible investigation, but to pursue numerous other legal and diplomatic avenues to achieve a modicum of justice. I want to briefly outline that history, to provide background for understanding what brought the Corries to the trial now underway.

I think that history can be usefully divided into four parts: first, the Israeli side- the government's actions and the military's internal investigation; and then, the Corries' efforts to use the three branches of their own government—Congress, the Executive, and the Judiciary.

On the day after Rachel's death, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon promised President Bush a "thorough, credible, and transparent" investigation. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher assured: "When we have the death of an American citizen, we want to see it fully investigated. That is one of our key responsibilities overseas, to find out what happened in situations like these."

In Congress, Brian Baird introduced House Concurrent Resolution 111 calling on the U.S. government to conduct a full investigation of her death.

Problems arose immediately. Despite the strong opposition of the family, Israel insisted that an autopsy be performed before Rachel's body could be returned. The Corries refused to allow this without two assurances: that an official from the U.S. Embassy be present, and that the autopsy not be performed by anyone associated with the Israeli military, since after all, these were the people who killed her.

> The U.S. government declined to investigate, and claimed it could not force a "thorough, credible and transparent" inquiry from the Israelis.

Even an Israeli court ordered that a U.S. official be a witness, and with this understanding the family acquiesced. Not until 2007 would they learn that both their requests, and the Israeli court order, had been ignored. Although the State Department had known about this for four years, the Corries discovered it only through a Freedom of Information Act request. Furthermore, the autopsy had been performed by an Israel Defense Force regular. After making these discoveries, the Corries amended their lawsuit in Israel to include these actions. Just two days ago, the IDF doctor admitted he had not followed the Israeli court order, while blaming it on the U.S. Embassy.

Deceptions by the Israeli government began immediately after Rachel was killed. First, they told the U.S. embassy that Rachel was never struck by the bulldozer, that she had been hit by a falling slab of concrete. Then they changed that story and said that no, they weren't conducting any house demolitions that day. They circulated a photo in the U.S. Congress that purported to show that Rachel was invisible to the bulldozer drivers: it showed an X where Rachel's body was, then a mound of dirt, and beyond that the bulldozer. The problem was, that there were two bulldozer teams operating there, and the photo showed the other bulldozer, not the one that killed Rachel.

Palestinians killed by Israel almost never have the benefit of a military inquiry, but in Rachel's case an internal investigation was conducted at the insistence of the U.S.

Eyewitnesses had reported that Rachel had climbed atop the dirt mound and was clearly visible, at eye level, to the two drivers of the bulldozer. There was a highly charged atmosphere of skirmishes with the International Solidarity Movement (ISM) activists throughout the day. (One soldier entered into the log that day, referring to the international activists: "Those foreigners should be handled and their entrance into the Gaza Strip forbidden. Additionally the firing orders must state (illegible) that every adult person should be shot to kill").

Now, the IDF did have its own video and audio tape of the events of that day. (The actual killing is not on film; the camera pans away from Rachel at the moment she is run over, then pans back to the scene.) The U.S. government repeatedly asked for a copy of the whole audio and video recordings, but wasn't given them. The U.S. eventually received a grainy black and white video, when in fact a color copy existed. An Israeli reporter recently obtained the color version, which shows how dramatically Rachel stood out, in her Day-Glo orange flak jacket—but in this color version, the section where Rachel could actually be seen by the drivers had been cut out! Apparently, they realized just how implausible their claims were in the light of this video evidence.

Everybody knows what happened then, as all the eyewitnesses confirm: the giant machine drove over Rachel, then stopped, and with its blade lowered, drove backwards over her again.

The results of Israel's investigation were announced in May of 2003. The army's report claimed that Rachel had been "hidden from view" behind a mound of earth and that the bulldozer had never come into contact with her. It concluded that "Corrie was struck by dirt and a slab of concrete" as earth slipped on top of her. The case was closed and no charges were brought. The report would not even be released to the U.S. government, whose billions in annual largesse ranked Israel as by far the largest recipient of U.S. aid.

Even the U.S. admitted the inadequacy of the report: Secretary of State Colin Powell's Chief of Staff Lawrence Wilkerson told the Corries, "Your ultimate question, however, is a valid one, i.e., whether or not we view that report to have reflected an investigation that was 'thorough, credible, and transparent.' I can answer your question without equivocation. No, we do not consider it so." But the U.S. government declined to conduct its own investigation, and claimed it could not force a "thorough, credible and transparent" inquiry from the Israelis. The State Dept. continues through diplomatic channels to request a new inquiry, but they tell the Corries that these requests go unanswered and are ignored.

In Congress, the Corries say that at least one of their family members has paid a visit to every one of the 435 members of the House, an incredible effort. And even though Congressman Baird's resolution calling for an investigation had gathered 77 cosponsors, it died in committee that year without a hearing.

The family persisted. It took nearly two years before they had a contact in the Justice Department, and were able to meet with the U.S. Attorney in Seattle, John McKay. He explained that in order to pursue a U.S.-based prosecution, one of the required elements was that the U.S. Attorney General would need to certify that the killing was intended "to coerce, intimidate or retaliate against a civilian population or government." This was quoting an anti-terrorism statute the U.S. had actually used against Indonesia, when the FBI went to investigate the killing of an American, Rick Spier. According to Cindy, McKay told them, "'I'll give you as much time as you need, but I'm here to tell you that no Attorney General-past, present or future-will ever certify against Israel.' Maybe that's what shocked me the most," she said. "I couldn't believe that he was being so forthright. I was dumbfounded."

On March 17, 2005, the family met with Barry Sabin, head of the Counterterrorism Section of the Criminal Division at the Justice Department. Sabin told them that the applicable criminal statutes could be applied to the military of a foreign country. He said that Rachel's killing could meet the criteria of "trying to coerce, intimidate, or retaliate" if proper evidence for it could be shown.

The Corries said that such evidence was abundant, citing the killing not only of Rachel but of two other international human

▸ **JUSTICE,** continued on page 10

Israeli military admits failures in investigation

Corrie Foundation Press Release

On March 17, the Haifa District Court saw a fourth day of testimony in the civil lawsuit filed by Rachel Corrie's family against the State of Israel for her unlawful killing in Rafah, Gaza. Rachel Corrie, a U.S. human rights defender from Olympia, was crushed to death on March 16, 2003 by a Caterpillar D9R bulldozer. She had been nonviolently demonstrating against Palestinian home demolitions with fellow members of the International Solidarity Movement (ISM), a Palestinian-led movement committed to resisting the Israeli occupation of Palestinian land using nonviolent, direct action methods and principles.

An Israeli military police investigator, who was part of the team that investigated Rachel's killing, testified today. In his testimony he stated that:

* He never inspected the site where the killing occurred; nor did he ever sit inside the D9 bulldozer to see for himself the view the driver had and what the field of vision was.

* He admitted that the Israeli military's D9 bulldozer regulations state that the D9s should not be operated with civilians in close proximity. He failed to question the bulldozer driver about these regulations or make them part of the military police investigation file.

* He received a court order authorizing Rachel's autopsy under the condition that an official from the U.S. Embassy be present, and at the time informed the court that the condition would be upheld. Subsequently, he made no effort to ensure that this condition was upheld, nor does he know if anyone else did, stating he did not consider the follow-up his responsibility. He also failed to forward the final autopsy report to the court, even though this was required, stating that his commander did not require him to do so and that he simply "did not pay attention" to the court order. Dr. Hiss ultimately performed the autopsy without an US Embassy official present.

* To his knowledge, no ISM member was arrested the afternoon of March 16 for interfering with Israeli military activities.

US eyewitness Gregory Schnabel, the fourth and last eyewitness called to testify, provided his account of the killing of Ms. Corrie. Gregory testified that he saw Rachel climb to the top of the pile of dirt being pushed by the bulldozer and that she was visible to the driver. He also testified that a bulldozer had come close to himself and another ISM member that afternoon, stopping just short of hitting them, which led him to believe that the demonstrators were visible to the driver.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

ESTABLISHED IN 1990 BY THE THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION

Works In Progress is a free, volunteer-operated progressive community newspaper based in Olympia, Washington. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of *Works In Progress* and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions

Please send text as Word attachments. Artwork and photos can be sent electronically or we can scan them for you as camera-ready/black & white.

We value well-researched pieces that cover news stories that would be informative to readers in the South Sound. We value news and analysis over opinion pieces. We value submissions on stories that are misrepresented or ignored by mainstream media.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number.

Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress*, it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or aren't finding someone else to cover it!)*

Send submissions to *olywip@gmail* or mail to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295.

Governing Tool

The following statement is part of the Editorial Policy and is the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause:

WIP *will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by* WIP *to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but* WIP *reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

Mission Statement

"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. *Works In Progress* is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause

We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Back Issues

Some issues are held in the Timberland Library system. *WIP* is archived on microfilm by the UW Library.

WORKERS IN PROGRESS

Colby Batts
Jeff "No War" Berryhill
Janet Blanding
Dave Campbell
Marylea Coday
Mike Coday
Renee Cruickshank
Wally Cuddeford
Christian DesMarets
Brendan Funtek
Ben Gus
Teresa Jennings
Margaret Love
Joshua Neuhouser
hali panneton
Sandia Slaby
Sylvia Smith
Jeff Sowers
Pat Tassoni
Ryan Tompkins
Berd Whitlock
Scott Yoos
and room for more...

WIP EASTER EGG HUNT
Can you find all 20 little WIP flames?

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline:
April 16
PO Box 295
Olympia WA 98507
olywip@gmail.com
www.olywip.org
Proofreading:
April 23
(Be there for the first read!)

ADVERTISING RATES

253-225-1769

7.25" x 4.75"	. . . $125
4.75 x 4.75"	. . . $83
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2.25" x 2.25"	. . . $20

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POWER fundraiser-Soup and Stories

Friday, April 2, 7-9 p.m., Traditions Cafe, 5th and Water in downtown Olympia

Join POWER, the evening of April 2, for dinner, jazz, and readers' theater at Traditions, downtown. Richard Lopez and friends will provide live jazz to accompany the soup buffet, followed by South Sound Seniors Reader's Theater Unlimited. This fundraiser will benefit Parents Organizing for Welfare and Economic Rights (POWER).

POWER is an organization of low-income parents and allies advocating for a strong social safety net while working toward a world where children and caregiving are truly valued, and the devastation of poverty has been eradicated.

For more info, call Monica Peabody at 360-352-9716, email welfarerights@riseup.net, or visit www.oly-wa.us/power/

"Restorative Justice and Restorative Practices"

Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation's April TCTV program airs this month every Monday from 1:30 to 2:30 pm and every Thursday 9-10 pm on TCTV cable channel 22 in Thurston County.

For more information, contact Glen Anderson at glen@olympiafor.org, or visit www.olyfor.org.

A Struggle for Justice in Latin America feat. Father Roy Bourgeois

Sunday, April 11, 2 p.m., Evergreen State College, Lecture Hall 1

In 1980 Fr. Roy, Maryknoll priest, became involved in issues surrounding US policy in El Salvador after four US churchwomen - two of them his friends - were raped and killed by Salvadoran soldiers. Roy became an outspoken critic of US foreign policy in Latin America. Since then, he has spent over four years in US federal prisons for nonviolent protests against the training of Latin American soldiers at Ft. Benning, Georgia.

In 1990, Roy founded the School of Americas Watch, an organization that does research on the US Army School of the Americas (SOA), now renamed the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation or WHINSEC, at Fort Benning, Georgia. Each year the school trains hundreds of soldiers from Latin America in combat skills - all paid for by U.S. taxpayers.

The School of the Americas Watch, located just outside the main entrance of Fort Benning and in Washington, DC, informs the general public, Congress and the media about the implications of this training on the people of Latin America. For the last 10 years there has been a peaceful protest with over 24,000 in attendance. Come see this Nobel Peace Prize nominee speak for free.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/EVENTS

20 YEARS OF WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works in Progress is preparing for its 20th anniversary issue this coming May in grand style.

We're seeking all past authors and long-time readers of WIP to share your perspective of the paper with us. If you have frequently written for us, we would love to hear again from you soon. Contact olywip@gmail.com to join us for this momentuous event.

Tax Day observance

Thursday, April 15, 11 a.m.-Midnight
(...or, until whenever we run out of flyers!)
@ the downtown Post Office (8th and Jefferson St.)

It's that wretched time of year again, time for all responsible citizens to congregate at their local Post Office, and mourn the obscene wrongs being done in the name of every American Taxpayer!!! -PLEASE JOIN US throughout the day, and help distribute informative flyers (revealing the ugly Truths behind our Federal Budget's sick priorities.) *This will be a peaceable & nonviolent observance.* (Remember to dress for the weather!) For further info., please contact: <glen@olywa.net> -or- <scottyoos@hotmail.com>,...and be SURE to check-out: <www.nwtrcc.org>!

Moving Beyond Three Cups of Tea: An Examination of Contemporary Western Social and Military Strategies

Tues, March 30, 7pm, Traditions Cafe (300 5th Ave SW)

This free event, a conversation about US counterinsurgency, counterterrorism, and intelligence gathering in Iraq and Afghanistan. will feature Dr. David Price, Professor of Anthropology at St. Martin's University and Dr. Steve Niva, Professor of International Politics at The Evergreen State College

Sponsored by the Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace (OMJP).

Free Radio Olympia Birthday Party Weekend

April 3-4, multiple locations

Hello all Free Radio Olympia listeners, friends and allies!

Free Radio Olympia has been bringing local voices, local music and independent media to airwaves for nine years! In celebration of the radio station, the Olympia community it is a part of and spring we bring to you a full weekend of events! Mark your calenders and bring your cash donation because Free Radio Olympia is throwin` it down for you!

All Events are $5 to $20 dollars!

Easter Egg Hunt - April 3, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Priest Point Park. - All ages welcome. Come celebrate the resurrection of free speech!

Be there early for the pancake breakfast! Acoustic music will serenade you as you eat. Stay for Easter Egg Hunting with prizes for all age groups including candy and prizes from down town businesses.

The Free Radio Olympia Birthday Party 7 p.m. to midnight at the Hackery (1205 Eastside St NE) Featuring the music of: Double B (Indiana Hip-Hop), Shark Pact (Oly Punk), The Pasties (International All-Stars), Night Fox (Electro-Hip Hop) La Swagga (360 Hip Hop). Drinks and Food Available with Donation

F.R.O. Skate Jam - April 4, 7-11 p.m. at Skateland Olympia (1200 South Bay Rd NE),

All ages welcome. Make sure to bring your dance moves and come freak out on skates to authentic vinyl disco and r-n-b records! We promise to turn down the lights and turn on the magic. Dress to stand out or skate your ass off and you just might win some very special prizes from very special local businesses!

We look forward to seeing you all at the events and stay tuned to Free Radio Olympia 98.5 FM!

Green Party Economy series

Wednesday, April 7, 7-10 p.m., Traditions Cafe, 300 5th Ave. SE

A presentation by Peter Bohmer on "Creating a Sustainable Society." Serious problems require profound solutions. Locally and beyond, people are proposing alternatives for various aspects of our economic system. Will these proposals be more fair and sustainable than our current arrangements? What ideas correspond to your values? Also featuring the films "Power Shift" and "How Cuba Survived Peak Oil."

Saturday, April 10: Community Discussion of April 7 event, MIXX96 Meeting Room, Washington & State St, 2-5 p.m.

Sunday, April 18, 2-5 p.m., MIXX96 meeting room

"Affluenza" and "Ithaca Hours," movies about two current approaches to taking action

Wednesday, April 21, 6:30-9:30 p.m., Lincoln Elementary School Cafeteria

Festival of Community Action on "Taking Action"- After gaining new insights and meeting new people, it's time to take action. Several local organizations are already making progress; listen to their presentations and learn how you can collaborate.

- Attend what you can; events stand alone.
- Provocative background papers are already online at the Green Party of South Puget Sound website: greenparty-sps.net.
- Call Janet at 352-0779 for questions/suggestions
- Presented to the public by the Green Party of South Puget Sound

Northwest Latin American Solidarity Conference

April 9-11, Evergreen State College, Seminar II E Wing.

Latin American solidarity organizers from the West Coast are converging together and you're invited. Numerous events are open to the public and you should consider this a wonderful opportunity to get involved in meaningful international solidarity work.

On Friday, April 9, Jesse Freeston of The Real News Network will speak on his highly acclaimed video journalism reports he produced on the fraudulent Honduran elections, at 7 p.m. at Evergreen Sem II E1107. Throughout Saturday, April 10, in Sem II E1107, we will host more than eight workshops covering diverse topics and will finish the day with author Carlos Martinez discussing his book "Venezuela Speaks! Voices from the Grassroots," at 4 p.m. in Sem II E1107. That evening we will dance on over to the "Quincenero Drag Dance Party" at the Eagles Hall. On Sunday, we will have more than four more workshops including a comprehensive overview of what lies ahead after this conference in the morning followed by Father Roy Bourgeois of SOA Watch speaking at 2 p.m. in Lecture Hall 1. Throughout the weekend we will have times when we all come together for larger facilitated meetings to work on the main goals of the conference.

Register by going to the link below to fill out the registration form: nwlasconference.wordpress.com

Shorelines and Sea-Level Rise: What Can We Expect?

Monday, April 12, 7-9:30 p.m., Olympia Center, 222 Columbia St. NW

Hydrologic Cycle and Climate Change in Thurston County: Learn about hydrologic systems and what we now know about the behavior of our 'hydrologic corridors.' Featuring Nadine Romero, Thurston County Hydrogeologist, who has spent the last 28 years working as a professional hydrogeologist for state, local and tribal governments and is currently the Thurston County Hydrogeologist -- where she has been for the last three years.

Geology, Climate Change, and Human Impacts in Thurston County: Explore how our geologic past, our NW climate, and we humans as geologic agents combine to create the geologic challenges we face. Featuring Wendy Gerstel, Qwg Applied Geology, who has worked for 30 years to address geologic hazards and associated land-use issues for Federal, State, and local jurisdictions, Tribes, non-profit groups, and private landowners.

Planning for our Shorelines: Find out about the suggested changes to Olympia's Shoreline Master Program. Featuring Cari Hornbein Senior Planner, City of Olympia and Amy Tousley Vice-chair, Olympia Planning Commission

Ms. Hornbein has been in the planning field since 1981, and has worked in both large and small cities throughout the country. Ms. Tousley has been a practicing urban and regional planner for 27 years, and is serving her 13th year on the Planning Commission.

There will be an opportunity to provide comments on the Shoreline Master Program following the presentations. Andy Haub from Public Works and other City Staff will be on hand to answer questions.

For more Information: Barb at 878-9901 or barb@scavezze.com

Weaving Research Communities Together: Research Protocols in Indian Country

Friday, April 16, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Longhouse Education and Cultural Center at Evergreen State College.

On-site registration begins at 8 a.m. and online registration is available at: nwindian.evergreen.edu/2010_conference_registration.html . We hope to begin the conversation within the Evergreen and Olympia communities, and beyond, about the need for implementing research protocols for people working with Native American tribes and communities, with the ultimate goal of eliminating the negative effects of cultural exploitation.

WIP Letter

In the February 2010 issue of WIP, the article "Haiti: The Aftershock Doctrine" says "The infamous hereditary dictatorship of 'Papa' Doc and 'Baby' Doc Duvalier riled the country with a unique form of voodoo oppression." Contrary to what the author of this article may believe, Voodoo (or Vodou) is NOT a form of oppression, and it also isn't any kind of satanism or black magic! In fact Vodou is the indigenous religion of Haiti.

Vodou is a mixture of native Arawak religion, religion from the West African peoples that were brought to Haiti as slaves, and of Roman Catholic Christianity, which the slaves were forced to convert to by the Spaniards that brought them to Haiti. New Orleans Voodoo is a separate but related religion. So please, WIP readers and workers - remember not to throw this word around!

Becky

The Artesian Rumble Arkestra, which plays on Fridays at the Percival Landing Peace Vigil. *Photo by Berd Whitlock*

Travis Bishop freed!

Press Release

Fort Lewis, Washington – War resister and conscientious objector Travis Bishop was released from the stockade at Fort Lewis Thursday morning.

Bishop, an Iraq War veteran, originally was sentenced to 12 months in prison during his court-martial at Fort Hood, Texas for refusing to deploy to Afghanistan for reasons of conscience. He later received a three-month reduction in sentence due to a successful clemency application to the Commanding General at Fort Hood, as well as receiving extra time off for good behavior. Bishop served a total of seven months and 12 days of confinement. He also received reduction of rank from Sergeant to Private and a pending Bad Conduct Discharge.

While under confinement, Bishop was recognized by Amnesty International as a prisoner of conscience and updated his blog from the Northwest Joint Regional Correctional Facility. He also received support from hundreds of people from around the world who wrote letters of encouragement for him and also to military authorities calling for his release.

Bishop spoke out about the inhumane conditions at the Fort Lewis stockade, which produced some reform in treatment of prisoners at the facility. Bishop was placed on the facility's "most difficult" prisoners list for these efforts.

While in Iraq, Bishop, a talented country-western musician, opened for Toby Keith at a USO event in 2007. Bishop plans to resume his musical career.

For more information or to schedule an individual interview with either Bishop or his defense team, please contact Seth Manzel at 253-228-8912 or attorney James Branum at 405-476-5620.

Father Ray Bourgeois coming to Olympia!

Father Roy Bourgeois, founder of the School of the Americas Watch, is coming to Olympia, to speak on current struggles for justice in Latin America.

Sunday, April 11, at 2 PM
Evergreen State College
Lecture Hall #1 off Red Square
Call 360 357-6207 for information on parking or disability accomodations.

This event is sponsored by:

Olympia World Affairs Council
Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation
Catholics: Call To Action Western Washington
Latin American Solidarity Organization
Olympia CISPES
Olympia Area Peace Corps Association

www.LokiLoka.com
A free online local directory
Sustaining a culture created by locally-owned businesses, small farms, artistry, community organizations and events
You'll be amazed at what you can find! Loki Loka

California will get to vote to legalize marijuana in November

An initiative to lift criminal penalties for possession of up to an ounce of marijuana for personal use, and would also allow a person 21 years of age or older to grow marijuana in a space up to 25 square feet, has gathered enough signatures to be on the ballot in California in November. The California initiative led by Richard Lee, an Oakland businessman and entrepreneur, has been the driving force behind the California initiative. California Secretary of State Debra Bowen announced on March 24th that the initiative had gathered more than the 433,971 valid voter signatures needed to put the initiative to a State-wide vote in the November election.

The Control and Tax Cannabis California 2010 Act would regulate cannabis like alcohol, give local governments the ability to tax and regulate the sale of cannabis to adults 21 and older, is projected to generate billions of dollars in tax revenue for the California State budget.

Polling in California indicates that 56% of the voters favor decriminalization of marijuana. The campaign to pass Cannabis 2010 expects to be outspent by opponents of the measure for the decisive vote in the November election. The website for Control and Tax Cannabis California 2010 is www.taxcannabis2010.org

Here in Washington State, volunteers are mobilizing to gather signatures for our own marijuana legalization measure. Initiative I-1068 is working to gather signatures between now and July 2, 2010 when petitions must be submitted to the Secretary of State for certification. The campaign will need about 250,000 valid Washington voter signatures to get on the ballot in November and is working to gather 400,000 signatures to insure certification. The website for Washington Initiative I-1068 is www.sensiblewashington.org.

VICS PIZZERIA
360.943.8044
233 Division St NW

Tax Day Observance
Thursday, April 15th, 11AM till Midnite,
(...or,till whenever we run out of flyers!)
@ the Downtown P.O. (8th Ave & Jefferson), Olympia

Centralia Square Antique Mall

3 floors to explore ▪ Restaurant ▪ Bookstore

Directions from Olympia
South on Interstate 5
Off at Exit 62 (Factory Outlets)
East on Harrison
Right on Pearl
201 S Pearl & Locust

Open 7 days 10 to 5

The Olympia Free Herbal Clinic is open again!

The Clinic has a new office space in downtown Olympia.

Our open hours are:

Tuesdays	**3 to 7 pm**
Wednesdays	**5 to 7 pm**
Thursdays	**3 to 7 pm**

In the White Building on 4th Avenue (across from the Reef and above Last Word Books) in Room 212. The entrance is to the right of Last Word Books. Our office is up the stairs, down the hall, and to the right.

They are currently accepting applications for internships. Areas of focus include:

- Fundraising
- Donations and advertising
- Medicine
- Receptionist

Their wish list:

- Medicine-making supplies
- Clean, empty tincture bottles
- Organically cultivated or ethically wild-crafted herbs
- Books on herbal medicine, anatomy&physiology, herb/drug interactions, etc.

What if they gave a war and *nobody paid for it*?

Are you furious that your tax dollars help fund:

- the School of the Americas/WHINSEC
- the war in Afghanistan
- the invasion and occupation of Iraq
- weapons of mass destruction
- and other forms of militarism?

Find out about resisting war taxes.
Contact:

NATIONAL WAR TAX RESISTANCE COORDINATING COMMITTEE
PO Box 150553, Brooklyn, NY 11215
800.269.7464 · www.nwtrcc.org

In opposition to renewed use of the Port of Olympia for military shipments

Lawrence Mosqueda, Ph.D.

The following is a letter written to the Port of Olympia Commissioners, the Olympia City Council, and the Thurston County Commissioners

It has come to my attention that the Port of Olympia Commissioners are again considering using the Port of Olympia to ship military equipment to and from the U.S. wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. This would be a terrible mistake, both legally and morally.

As you know, over the past several years many Olympia residents, South Sound residents and others have protested and resisted the use of the Port for illegal wars. These protests have been relatively peaceful, except for attacks from police and from those whom the police have allowed to harass the protesters. Much has been written about these protests and I will not repeat all of the issues that have arisen. However, I will summarize and cite some of the sources that I, and others, have used to explain why the Port of Olympia should not participate in these illegal wars. I would ask that you read this carefully and submit it to your staff for discussion.

I. Illegality of the wars

The first point has been well documented by those who have studied these wars for more than eight years now. In addition to being a bad policy as a war of aggression in Iraq, built on lies that Iraq had Weapons of Mass Destruction or that Iraq was complicit in 9/11 (even George Bush does not believe that anymore) — the war in Iraq has conclusively been demonstrated to be an *illegal* war built on false premises and lies from the Bush administration. Eight years ago, some could argue that this might be a debatable assertion; by 2010 it should be accepted as fact.

I wrote an article, "A Duty to Disobey All Illegal Orders," on February 26, 2003 which pointed out that the upcoming Bush/U.S. war in Iraq did not meet any criteria for a legal or "just" war, and that the U.S. military had an affirmative obligation to disobey illegal orders under the oath taken at the time of induction and under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. This article has been reprinted on the web and elsewhere many times. In addition to the sources I cited in the article, many prominent scholars, lawyers and others have added significant research on the illegality of the U.S. war in Iraq. At some unguarded moments, even those who aided in this criminal war planning have admitted that the war was illegal. See the admission by Richard Perle, a member of the Defense Policy Board, at http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2003/nov/20/usa.iraq1 (2003).

The war in Afghanistan is equally illegal, as pointed out by many international lawyers, scholars and other prominent authors. As Marjorie Cohn, President of the National Lawyers Guild, has stated:

The invasion of Afghanistan was not legitimate self-defense under article 51 of the (U.N.) charter because the attacks on Sept. 11 were criminal attacks, not "armed attacks" by another country. Afghanistan did not attack the United States. In fact, 15 of the 19 hijackers came from Saudi Arabia. Furthermore, there was not an imminent threat of an armed attack on the United States after Sept. 11, or Bush would not have waited three weeks before initiating his October 2001 bombing campaign. The necessity for self-defense must be "instant, overwhelming, leaving no choice of means, and no moment for deliberation." This classic principle of self-defense in international law has been affirmed by the Nuremberg Tribunal and the U.N. General Assembly.

The wars did not become legal under international law or national law just because we have now transferred authority of the Presidency from the original perpetrator of the wars to a more articulate, more intelligent person in 2009. The Iraq war does not become more legitimate, more legal, or more moral by a dubious "drawdown" that will take many more years to complete, if ever. The war in Afghanistan does not become more legitimate or more legal by a "surge," in fact, it becomes even more illegal.

The citizens of our area have done a great service for us as they have made the conduct and continuation of the wars a local and national issue. An illegal war must be stopped, not slowed down.

II. Right and obligation to protest and resist

In addition to having a right to protest and resist the flawed foreign policy of these illegal wars of aggression, the citizens of Olympia and elsewhere have a *right* and an *obligation* to resist under international and domestic law. I stated in my article, "A Duty to Disobey All Illegal Orders,":

As Hamilton Action for Social Change has noted "Under the Nuremberg Principles, you have an obligation not to follow the orders of leaders who are preparing crimes against peace and crimes against humanity. We are all bound by what U.S. Chief Prosecutor Robert Jackson declared in 1948: [T]he very essence of the [Nuremberg] Charter is that individuals have intentional duties which transcend the national obligations of obedience imposed by the individual state." At the Tokyo War Crimes trial, it was further declared "[A]nyone with knowledge of illegal activity and an opportunity to do something about it is a potential criminal under international law unless the person takes affirmative measures to prevent commission of the crimes.

Those who have protested and resisted at the Port over the past few years are exercising their legal obligations under the laws that the U.S. government created, along with the other allies, after WWII. I am quite sure that the citizens of the area will again resist any effort to use the Port for the purpose of illegal wars.

The Port itself also has an *obligation* to follow the law and not to continue to participate in the war crimes of the Bush legacy and the continuing war crime activity of the Obama administration. At the very least, the Port should continue (as in the past year) *not* to be used as an entry and departure point for arms and equipment for these illegal wars. For more courage, the Port should *declare* that it will not allow itself to be used for the wars, because of their illegal nature.

Some have said that we need to use the Port for transporting military equipment to "Support the Troops." Being complicit in the continuing war efforts is not "supporting the troops." As I stated in my previously cited article, support for the troops is not done by supporting the actions of the U.S. government:

The idea that those who oppose the Bush plans for war are against the troops is a fundamental lie. Support for the troops is not done by sending them off to a war which is fundamentally unnecessary—support is keeping them home. Support for the troops is not done by lying to them about the purpose and goals of the war and allowing those who will benefit and profit a free ride on the backs of the troops. Support for the troops is not done by making them complicit in an illegal and immoral war—it is done by exposing the lies and giving the troops an opportunity not to be complicit in war crimes.

By 2010, over 6,000 Americans have died in Iraq and Afghanistan, and over a million Iraqis and Afghans have been killed. (See British Lancet study of 2006 with the estimate of 600,000 dead in Iraq alone, http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(06)69491-9/abstract). Millions of Iraqis and Afghans have become refugees, and large numbers in their populations suffer with injuries and disease caused by war.

There are literally hundreds of thousands of Americans who suffer from PTSD and other injuries. See, for example, the NY Times of April 18, 2008, http://tinyurl.com/y8wpark. Every day that we allow these illegal wars to continue, we allow more death and destruction on all sides.

There are some who have argued that we have an obligation to follow our national "leaders" and open our ports and other public services to their business and facilitate their wishes. It should be remembered that several of the persons convicted by the U.S. at the Nuremberg trials were not those who actually got their hands dirty by killing others directly, but who allowed and facilitated the actions of others. This was especially true in the Justices' trial that convicted the Judges of Germany in WWII. The fact that some of the Justices were "hesitant" or were "just following orders" was not considered to be a defense for allowing war crimes to continue. (See http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/nuremberg/alstoetter.htm#Commentary)

In addition to many academic sources on this, these events were also immortalized in the classic 1961 film *Judgment at Nuremberg*.

These German public officials had the power to do something about their complicity, albeit with considerable personal risk to themselves, but chose not to act. The public officials in Olympia are not at anywhere near the same level of risk, and yet many of them are not taking the needed courageous action to refuse cooperation with the national government's war policies.

The time for the Port and others to take action is not in 10-20 years, when they may issue a late apology for cooperating with these wars—but now when their actions may have some positive consequences.

III. Law enforcement's duty during peaceful protest

Since the wars are illegal and the citizens and the local officials have a right and a duty to protest and resist, the "authorities" have an obligation not to beat, harass, or gas the citizens as they fulfill their obligations to stop the war machine from engaging in the continuation of the illegal policies and practices that perpetuate these wars. The protesters and resisters, for many days during the last three years, were involved with peaceful protests and assembly in Olympia (and Tacoma). These protests have been peaceful and nonviolent. Many people have been arrested for being in the streets. Most of those arrested have not been convicted of any crimes. As far as I know, there have been no arrests for any attacks on the police – because there have been none.

The police department of the City of Olympia and the Thurston County Sheriff's office should facilitate peaceful protest, not exacerbate tensions as the citizenry engage in peaceful actions. Of course, no actions at all would be necessary if the Port and the local authorities were following domestic and international law and *not* allowing use of public facilities for illegal wars. The City of Olympia should not allow itself to be used for this effort – even if they are "paid" for the services of the police.

IV. The cost of war

The immorality and illegality of the wars is no longer in rational dispute. The wars are also grossly costly and not in the interest of the American people and the local residents of the South Sound. For current information on the dollar costs, see the National Priorities Project, which tracked the total cost of the wars and breaks down the cost for local entities. (www.nationalpriorities.org) As of this writing, the U.S. cost of the wars is $975.4 billion. The cost to Olympia residents is $152.9 million. This does not include the cost of providing police services that have "protected" the Port from citizens who are exercising their Constitutional rights to protest illegal wars. The citizens have international and domestic obligations to resist complicity in war crimes in their back yards.

V. Actions needed from local government

The City of Olympia and Thurston County should make it clear that they will not subsidize the war efforts by providing police "protection" when no real protection from the public is needed. The Port of Olympia should make it clear that they will not participate in actions that contribute to continuing war crimes, and that they will not accept "blood money" for additional shipments, nor accept "back door payments" from Homeland Security to militarize the Port. This is an opportunity for local government officials to make principled stands and be an example to other entities by saying that they will not cooperate in continuing these wars. This would truly be supporting the local communities and supporting the troops.

To summarize:

1. The U.S. wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are illegal under international and domestic laws.
2. The citizens of the United States and their local officials have not only a right but a duty to resist those actions that continue these illegal wars, including stopping military shipments through the Port of Olympia.
3. Citizens, in the performance of their duties to resist illegal wars, have the right to be free from repression, beatings, chemical attacks, etc. from the authorities, as these citizens are exercising their rights.
4. The local governments should not be expending local resources to facilitate the continuation of these illegal wars.

This is a somewhat lengthy letter, but public testimony at regularly scheduled meetings is usually limited to 2-3 minutes. However, the issues discussed here are complicated and cannot be explained in a few short minutes. In addition to this letter, I am willing to meet with those who receive this to provide more explanation and documentation on the issues.

Furthermore, I would urge the City of Olympia, Thurston County and the Port of Olympia to exercise transparency and accountability regarding use of the Port. For issues with high importance to local residents, such as military shipments, public forums should be held (with sufficient time allotted for each participant) — where citizen input is taken, and most importantly, taken into account when decisions are made about Port activities.

acupuncture is pretty cool.

http://2kensmith.blogspot.com/

923.0826

ken smith, l.ac.

Update

From WIP News Service

The City Council and the Port Commission have opened discussions regarding the port, military shipments, and "security" (i.e., whether city cops would be called upon to protect military shipments). The discussion was to happen at the public Port Commission meeting Thursday March 25, but the topic was tabled because one commissioner couldn't make it. No word yet on when it *will* be discussed.

This is a great opportunity for the social justice community in Olympia to prevail on our newly elected officials to uphold international law, to support our troops, and to support the innocent people of Iraq by refusing to cooperate with this abhorrent occupation. (Or at least, to refuse to use local funds to foot the military's bill to protect these shipments.) Keep your ears open for when this public meeting will take place!

International Law and Afghanistan

By Marco Rosaire Rossi

On March 10, Ohio Representative Dennis Kucinich brought a much needed resolution to the floor of the House on the war in Afghanistan. Invoking the War Powers Act, the Kucinich resolution called for the removal of all United States forces from Afghanistan within 30 days, or—if the president can demonstrate that doing so would jeopardize the lives of military personnel—by the end of the year. The resolution failed by startling numbers: 65 voted in favor of it, 356 voted against. Nevertheless, the resolution prompted a very important debate on the war in Afghanistan, and the future of US military interventions.

As usual, the desire to "bring the troops home" brought together the marginalized aspects of both the Democratic and Republican parties. Both Progressive Democrats and Libertarian Republicans emphasized the lack of direction and clear objections in fighting the war in Afghanistan, the toll that the war has had on service personnel, the cost of the war, and the constitutionality of the war. But, there is one aspect of the war that was not discussed: the legality of the war in the terms of the US obligation under the United Nations Charter. Under the UN Charter, the war in Afghanistan can be considered a war of aggression. And those who have orchestrated and actively supported it—whether part of Bush's or Obama's administration—are guilty of the supreme international crime.

Congress never declared war on Afghanistan. After September 11, Congress passed the Resolution for the Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF), which granted the president the power to use military force "against those responsible for the recent attacks launched against the United States." The degree to which this resolution applies to Afghanistan has always been dubious.

It has never been clear to what degree the former Taliban regime was responsible for the attacks on September 11. So far, no serious connection has been made between the Taliban and the terrorist attacks.

The US has always claimed that the former Taliban government was responsible for providing refuge for Al Qaeda, not conspiring to attack the US—and even this claim is questionable. Before the US invaded Afghanistan, they demanded the Taliban government hand over Osama Bin Laden. The Taliban agreed on one condition: that the US provide some evidence that he was responsible for the attacks. That was a reasonable request considering that AUMF restricted the president's power to use force against those who are suspected of being responsible for that attack, and not just anyone. Regardless, the US refused to provide evidence and invaded anyway. Since then, Bin Laden has made public statements claiming responsibility for the attacks on September 11, but again, this creates major problems for invasion against Afghanistan. If Bin Laden was responsible for the attack, then AUMF only allows the use of force to be directed against him and Al Qaeda, not the nation of Afghanistan.

It is also important to note that AUMF mandates that the use of force must be confided to the regulations set forth in the War Powers Act—which restricts the president's ability to engage military forces in hostile situations without Congressional approval to—at most—90 days. In what appears to be a disregard for the War Powers Act, the conflict in Afghanistan is nearing its ninth year anniversary. In addition, the War Powers Act itself is seen by many legal scholars to be a compromise with the actual wording of the Constitution which, if taken literally, prevents the president from ever using military force until that authority is approved by Congress.

As an international treaty, the UN Charter is considered part of the supreme law of the land, under Article VI of the US Constitution. Under the UN Charter, the use of force is only justified in two cases: first, if it is approved by the UN Security Council, and second, if it is done in self-defense as described under Chapter VII, Article 51.

The first criteria is easy to analyze: it was never done. The closest thing the US ever received from the UN Security Council on authorization for the war was Resolution 1368, which was passed after the terrorist attack on September 11. Resolution 1368 declares that the Security Council is determined "to combat by all means threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts" and recognizes "the inherent right of individual or collective self-defense" against terrorism, but it also declares that these provisions must be in "accordance with the [UN] Charter," and gives no specific authorization to the US or any other state to use force against any country.

The second criteria is also easy to understand. No doubt, the destruction created through the terrorist attack on September 11 can be considered an "armed attack"as specified by the Charter, but Chapter VII, Article 51 specifies that such acts of self-defense need to be reported to the Security Council and no act of self-defense can transcend the UN authority. The US has never formally referred to its invasion of Afghanistan as an act of self-defense in the Security Council. It is regarded that there is no need to. Not only was the Taliban government never deemed responsible for the attacks on September 11, but they were never considered a genuine threat to the US. There is no self-defense against Afghanistan, because Afghanistan never attacked the US. Instead, the Security Council has recognized the invasion as "an international effort to root out terrorism."

It is and should be part of the responsibility of the UN to root out terrorism, but if this is the case—if the US invasion of Afghanistan is not approved by the Security Council, and not an act of self-defense—than that can only mean one thing: the US has committed an act of aggression and acts of aggression are violations of the UN Charter.

Overarching all these legal arguments is a question of responsibility. Even if the Security Council did grant the US the power to invade Afghanistan in order to find those responsible for the terrorist attacks, that does not give the US the authority to institute a regime change, occupy the country for nine years, and violate the Geneva Accords in the process. If the goal of the US is to find those responsible for the attacks, then it should go after those individuals and not an entire nation.

But this truism runs counter to the double standard that the Bush administration established under the war on terror and that continues under Obama's war on extremism. According to the US, international laws do not apply to those accused of terrorist actions, because terrorism is a criminal act perpetuated by individuals and not states; however, domestic laws and civil liberties that apply to criminals don't apply to those accused of terrorism either because these terrorists are fighting an international war. The UN doesn't matter, and neither do international policing organizations like INTERPOL. The only thing that matters is the US. The lack of responsibility becomes even more muddled since the US handed over the authority of the occupation to NATO. International laws only apply to states and in certain cases individuals. The legal accountability of international organizations is still unclear. Through the war on terrorism/extremism, the US is able to establish an acceptance for actions that are lawless, and through NATO is able to hide behind a veil of international cooperation as a means of avoiding accountability.

This complete disregard for international law puts international justice in peril. No nation should be allowed to eliminate terrorism through the use of aggression, or be allowed to make up the rules as it goes along in doing so, or avoid accountability as long as it has willing partners by its side. That would be equivalent to allowing nations to use genocide as a means of ensuring compliance with the laws of war, and then letting them off the hook as long as a few other nations cheered them along. That is an untenable and illogical position, but it appears to be accepted by the elected representatives in the US—even by those in the opposition.

Poem #2

by Ken Hoyt

Dedicated to the life and work of my dear friend and mentor Joe DeRaymond who passed on last September.

Act 1
Whether you think the USA stands for
United States of Amnesia or United States of Alzheimer's
you must agree that this is a country built on forgetting.
Built on forgetting and
pretending and
denying and
ignoring and
pushing
it
down
deeper
inside
its own
psyche.
America, you can't dig mass graves deep enough to hold all the bodies or cover the stench.
You can't build boats deep enough to distance yourselves from the screams and moans that are echoing from the ballast weight.
You can't build concentration camps big enough to keep those memories locked in.
You can't build walls high enough to keep your past locked out.
America, No matter how hard you try, America,
you will never really be able to pave over the stumps.
America, you can never escape the ghosts of your victims.
America, the harder to try to block it out the more it becomes a part of you.
America you can't deny your history of violence and every now and then it erupts.
Wait,
Erupt what do you mean by that?
I don't know, I think erupt is pretty good word choice
because it like implies the aberrant and immediate violence of
mushroom clouds,
explosions of napalm and agent orange,
short bursts
and blasts of depleted uranium and
white phosphorous,
but, wait,
this violence isn't aberrant at all.
This violence is systematic.
This violence is systematic like bell curves and statistics and infant mortality rates.
This violence is ongoing like always being involved in some conflict somewhere consistently ever since World War II.
This violence is slow
and crushing
like poverty and white supremacy.
This violence is unceasing like manifest destiny.
This violence seeps and
oozes like a sponge saturated with blood.
America, the souls of your victims haunt you, America.
America, you couldn't hide the bodies well enough, America.
I don't know shit about psychology but I heard that the repressed memories and experiences are the ones we push down so deep we don't even know they're there, and they dictate our actions, thoughts and feelings more than we ever know. The further we try to bury them, the more power they have.
America you are goose-stepping to the cadence of your own violent history.
You are marching to the beat of the tell tale heart.
America, you have a problem.
Do you know what I hate most about you America?
You won't even apologize for any of it, not never.
I have friends in AA and they tell me that that step comes after realizing you have a problem. Realizing you have an addiction.
Maybe you'll be able to apologize after you fucking admit
that you are addicted
to blood.
Maybe it's not the rest of the world but you America, who needs the intervention.
They say that the unpunished criminal is never truly free.
America you are chained by this oppression just as hard.

Act 2
If you don't speak any Spanish it's time to learn some.
If you don't speak Spanish you need to know that El Salvador translates to "The Savior" in English.
This is important to the story because I'm going to try and like set up this Christ metaphor—Pay attention
In El Salvador they call it "La Memoria Historica"
which could maybe translate to "foundational memory."
My first week there I went to mass commemorating the murder of four Jesuit priests who were killed for what they believed in.
It didn't take long to realize that El Salvador is a country of martyrs.
It was in El Salvador that I realized how clearly the line is drawn in the sand.
I visited El Mozote, a community that has become a monument,
El Mozote a community where the School of the Americas' graduates killed every member of the town except one.
Every member of the town except one
who survived to tell the story,
who survived to pass on her memory.
It was there that I began to understand just how clearly the line is drawn in the sand. There really is such a thing as evil.
Yo como gringo, had to visit the killing fields myself in order to believe it.
I had to hear stories of American sponsored terrorists cutting open pregnant women.
I had to hear the stories of how the soldiers caught infants on the ends of their bayonets.
I had to visit the mass graves myself in order to truly understand it.
I had to see the gaping craters left in the earth by the bombs that were dropped on innocents.
I had to see the bullet holes of different calibers,
left in the concrete walls
of people's homes.
I had to put my fingers in the bullet holes before I could really believe.
I had to put my own hand in the scars before I really understood.
El Salvador I am sorry.
El Salvador I have and will continue to humble myself before you.
El Salvador I will continue to ask for your forgiveness knowing full well that it was unforgivable.
I am sorry that the generation before me killed you.
I am sorry that my parents paid their taxes.
I am sorry for the sins of my father.
I am sorry for Reagan
I'm sorry that my country spent over 6 billion dollars crucifying you.
I am sorry that my gringo wealth is your guanaco poverty.
I am sorry that I had to take two airplanes just to get down there and really get underneath America before I could feel just how heavy its burden is.
I am sorry for La Matanza.
I am sorry for los escuadrones de la muerte.
I am sorry for la miseria.
I am sorry for la Guerra.
I am sorry I was doubting Thomas.
I am sorry that the roman legionnaire stabbed you
when you were hemorrhaging and
suffocating and
dripping and
choking in front of
god and everybody.
I am sorry that I didn't understand.
I am sorry that I can never fully understand.
I am sorry that I let them kill you.
I am sorry that the Romans killed you.
I am sorry the empire
killed you.
I am thankful that you are a martyr.
I am thankful you are still here.
I am thankful that you are a reminder
because the one thing my country needs to do
is remember.

Introducing Stuart "Tate" Wilson

Mike Coday: *Hi, Tate. Thanks for telling us about your life as a house-less person. I think it might help some readers to know more about the organizations you are writing about. Can you tell us more about Camp Quixote?*

Tate: Camp Quixote is a self-governing democratic organization that provides shelter for houseless/homeless folks. The camp votes on all of its rules. Residents are allowed to reside there as long as they need. They have 501(c)3 nonprofit organization status even though it has recently expired. The camp was formed 3 years ago when members of the homeless community refused to leave the parking lot behind the Brotherhood bar downtown. Police were involved and as a result the city council created an ordinance (the 2nd city in America to do this) to provide a legal option for tent cities.

Mike Coday: *Yes, I remember the founding of Camp Quixote. I was working on opposition to the Pedestrian Interference Ordinance back then. It still seems ridiculous to me that people can't sit on the sidewalk if they decide they want to sit down. I was downtown recently talking with a group of people and had a homeowner come out and give us a bad time for standing and talking, for sitting on her steps at the sidewalk. Nobody was impeding her passage, she just wanted us gone from her "sidewalk." I guess we were an eyesore. But what about PANZA, what is PANZA? And what is the relationship between PANZA and Camp Quixote?*

Tate: Well, Camp Quixote could not quite handle the city council or the churches who stepped up to provide their grounds as a host site. The Camp needed a liaison who could represent the Camp. This is how PANZA was formed. PANZA is made up of well-respected members of our community. They are politicians, church pastors, etc. PANZA also has 501(c)3 non-profit status. Their 501(c)3 is active still. As stated in the mission, they are to help the camp become independent enough to take over and run the 501(c)3 without guidance from PANZA, and be independent enough to take on a permanent location. The name Camp Quixote and PANZA are rather funny to me. They are the main characters in the book Don Quixote. Don Quixote being the disillusioned "knight" who gets himself into battles with windmills thinking they are a monster and so on. PANZA is his trusty side kick dog who is always there to save the day (so to speak). And so PANZA is Camp Quixote's sidekick, there to stand up for us and save our butts from time to time.

Mike Coday: *Thanks, Tate, for the explanations and for taking time to tell us about your life.*

CAMP QUIXOTE MINUTES

The shared vision of PANZA and Camp Quixote

By Stuart "Tate" Wilson

Camp Quixote and PANZA are a collaboration of faith communities, individuals and organizations that work together to sustain a safe, healthy tent community that provides dignity, opportunity and personal growth for residents, volunteers and church host.

Mission Of Camp Quixote

To provide a safe, self-governing, and law abiding tent community in which every resident has an equal voice in camp governance, and an equal obligation to contribute to the well-being of the camp and the wider community.

PANZA's Mission is Twofold

- To support the self-governing community of Camp Quixote and to nurture the relationships and resources that can help its residents achieve their goals, and
- To promote affordable housing and effective services that help people overcome poverty.

Tate: "It got so cold, the water froze to my spatula!"

1/1/10 5:00am

I didn't sleep last night. It was New Year's Eve and I went out with some friends, celebrating the previous year and hoping for the best in the year to come. When I returned back to camp, I lay quietly in my tent waiting for my New Year's day to begin. Around 5 am I felt a strong urge to leave....NOW. This urge hit me like a ton of bricks. I quietly packed up my clothes, sleeping bag, tent, and I left. I had been staying at Camp Quixote for the past few months. But for two reasons, I knew I had to leave now.

Reason #1: The very real dangers posed to my health. Being enclosed by polyurethane plastic sheeting, we reside in a corner of the Church's parking garage. I think that the ceiling is made up of something that is very bad to breathe in.

Reason #2: I am furious at the fact that our partner & liaison with the community, PANZA, has intervened in the camp's self governance and is demanding that every member submit to random drug screening and is requiring a drug test as part of the application process for admittance.

I only asked for one basic need to be met this winter, and that is shelter. Now I cannot look to Camp Quixote for help.... partly due to the fact that I may have drugs and/or even alcohol in my system. Now I really feel homeless! I have a round-trip plane ticket to see my mother and stepfather in Detroit, Michigan. I leave in 10 days and I am wondering where will I stay for the next 10 days. Where will I stay when I come back? It looks like I will spend the rest of the winter in the woods when I return from Michigan in the beginning of February.

1/2/10

I feel better now that I'm gone. Being under that parking garage is bad news. Since the very first day of being there, I have had a bad cough and have been congested. Many other residents are complaining of the same symptoms, from day one. Half of the ceiling is made of some sort of fibrous material that seems to shed off into the air, covering everything in a thick layer of dust. Within a few days I have to clean my tent out again because of the layer of this nasty material that has accumulated. This is a big factor in why I am happy to be leaving from under the First Christian Church parking garage. However I now remember being at my mother's last summer when I went to visit her in Detroit and staying with her in her stuffy hotel room. I had to sleep right next to the air conditioner. My nasal passages became dry and bled a little. It's always something when living in enclosed spaces. The last time I lived in a house almost two and a half years ago I was constantly getting sick, due to the mold that also lived there.

Many people wonder what it is that causes homelessness. These reasons are mostly mine for being houseless. I do not consider myself homeless. I feel quite at home in Olympia, the town I was born in. I have chosen this lifestyle. There's something to be said about breathing in fresh air all day and all night.

1/3/10

I am already deeply missing my Camp family. It feels like I stepped away from my life and now do not know what to do. I am staying at my brother and his roommate's trailer for a couple days. Luckily there are a few other options for me to consider as far as having a place to stay. Yet I really do not care much for being a guest anywhere. I have eight days to go until I fly to stay with my mother and stepfather in Michigan.

During my time there, I plan on getting myself more organized and more healthy. I have been working on a book about my upbringing that has been hard to work on while being distracted by all that is around me in downtown Olympia. My mom will also be helpful to be around, to answer any questions I have about our past, for the book.

Also I will continue working on this unsettling issue that is always pressing in the back of my head. I'm referring to my being upset with PANZA's decision to intervene in the Camp's self-governance. Stepping away from Camp will allow me to clearly look at the big picture. When I return to Olympia, I will be better prepared to confront those involved and expose these issues to the people in our community who are concerned and curious about us.

Above: The "Front door" to Camp Quixote
Below left: A typical scene of what it looks like during our move to a new church location.
Below right: Camp resident Richard, whipping up some bacon

At Camp things feel very tense and there is unease in the air. Mainly, I am speaking of this whole drug testing policy being added to the Camp Quixote terms of contract for the admittance of new residents and as a way to weed out the current drug and alcohol users. The hope of PANZA is to prevent substance users and abusers of being allowed to seek shelter there. The general consensus of the Camp is that we are all not ok with this and do not want to see this happen. I talked to every single camp member individually to find out how they felt about this issue. I was surprised to discover every opinion was different, yet they all wished for this not to happen nonetheless. I observed that a common thread was that no one really wanted to speak out, incriminate themselves or make a scene. I am afraid that we will let the camp be controlled by others, losing our voice. I feel that Camp Quixote is the most well-equipped to make decisions for Camp Quixote. However we did give PANZA the right to intervene in our self governance under one condition: if drugs/alcohol became an issue. PANZA has expressed that drugs and alcohol are being seen as a problem in camp. But does the Camp feel this way? Do you (the public) feel this way? I wonder if by enforcing a drug policy, that our camp will be hurt more then it was helped? I foresee bad things happening for the future of Camp Quixote if a drug testing policy is put in place.

It is not a realistic or fair solution. I would like all involved to continue to search for a solution that is accepted by all involved. The simple reason that there is unease amongst our Camp community, is reason enough that the proposed solution made by PANZA is NOT an acceptable option.

Since we are not to bring or use drugs at the campsite as stated in the city ordinance, we need to treat every incident individually. There are so many circumstances that can make for a dirty urine analysis that I foresee innocent people suffering as a result. Who knows? What if someone has been off drugs for years and happened to relapse the day before the test? Or happened to smoke a joint while spending a weekend at the ocean? Does that mean those people should not be allowed a safe place to camp temporarily? What will we do to all those who no longer have a viable option? We should be able to expect to feel safe where we are. This is not what was meant to happen. I can honestly say I will respect any rules the Camp has set. But this is becoming a change of those rules. What we do outside of camp is not to be treated the same as what we do inside of Camp.

I do not feel I have to let anyone know if I do or do not have drugs/alcohol in my system. I will not submit to this imposed test. I left camp two days ago as a result. Even though I have eight days until I leave for Michigan, I still felt I needed to leave early as a result of all this turmoil. Not being okay with lying to the churches, PANZA, or myself I must respect their wishes and leave. I hope that everyone gets together to protest this by the time the testing begins. I will admit my urine, if tested, will show positive, but I am not going to say for what or what the circumstances were. That should not even matter. As long as I feel judged or not accepted for who I am, it is not necessary for me to have to submit to it. It does mean that I must stand up for what I believe is right, which is what I am trying to do now.

When I return from Michigan I will not have any drugs/alcohol in my system. I know I could reapply for camp residency and pass a drug test. I know I now can be readmitted back in. But I will not return back to camp. I will return to live back out in the woods. However, I would like to join PANZA as a member of the community. Camp members are not permitted to be members of PANZA, nor can they attend their meetings. Yet certain PANZA members are present at every Camp meeting. When Camp Quixote was asked to submit to drug screening we responded by asking PANZA members to do the same. One of their members responded by saying "HELL NO!" In those exact words. And if I become a member of PANZA and if am asked to submit, I will also say "HELL NO!" The only difference is that my response will automatically be the overruling one. Why is this? Is it only because I am a member of PANZA? Am I better then the homeless or to be more respected? I am baffled by this. I will still be living in a tent in the woods, I will even be a Camp Quixote reject who was not accepted by PANZA or the churches. But since all that has happened and since I do not have drugs in my system, I am now allowed to become part of PANZA and my words will now be more powerful then the Camp's.

If I have anything to do about it...this will not be the case. As I hope you are now able to see, there are some obvious problems here.

All of this makes me highly suspicious of PANZA's motives. I wonder if they are subconsciously more worried about completing their personal goals in the movement to end homelessness. In doing so, I wonder if a clean-cut Camp Quixote is the only way to get government funding. I wonder if visions of wonderful working future solutions are allowing for neglect of our immediate needs. I do not know if I should mention this either, but I will because I hate having to hold these things in. After all I am not the one who did anything wrong.

The truth is no one is perfect. We can sit around and point fingers all day. Or we can accept each other for who we are, and help each other using sense and compassion.

1/4/10

I've been sleeping most of last night, today, and probably most of tonight as well. Not giving thought to any of the pressing issues going on right now. Well, except for right now. I'm ready to get back to the issue at hand. I had a good and productive time while staying at Camp Quixote and felt my experience there was very positive over all. All I was expecting and needing was shelter during the winter months. I was hoping to spend the winter with others to ease the burden of being houseless during the winter. For the most part those needs were more then met. People from the community were bringing food and giving donations. The community has been extremely generous and helpful. All I want is to be able to be dry and safe and not feel like a criminal for choosing to live outside. The question is: how moved am I to take charge? Why should I? Will I? Will I forget about these issues by next week?

1/23/10

Has it really been only 23 days out of Camp? It seems like so long. Well, I feel healthy. It's not surprising to me that the day after moving into that parking garage of First Christian Church I fell sick, yet the very day I leave I am better. It's obvious to me, that was not a good place to be. I wonder if steps should be put in place to prevent that as a future location for the Camp? I understand it is nice to get out of the weather during the winter months but is it really worth it? For me...NO WAY! I have not used any drugs/alcohol for 30 days now. I know I can pass a drug test if I had to.

The last time I wrote in these 'minutes' I questioned if all this would even matter to me, if I would still be so worked up over these issues. Well...while I was in Michigan, every time anyone asked me about what I am doing back home in Washington, I get very worked up when the topic inevitably leads back to Camp Quixote issues. Those issues are what I was up to back home. So the answer is YES, I am still very concerned for the rights of my 'family' back home. I almost cannot wait to get home just to start where I left off.

3/8/10

When I got back into Olympia I spent the next three weeks really being "homeless". I was going from spot to spot... never knowing where I was going to stay. I tried to set up a good camp with pallets, plywood, and tarps to ensure I would stay dry. But it was raining everyday, all day. I never had a chance to get things dried out completely. I thought about going back to Camp Quixote and asking to be re-admitted. It would be hard to swallow the fact I would have to take a drug test. Also, this would nudge me along with fighting that issue, hoping for a more positive option. Today is the 8th and I have been back in Camp Quixote for less then a week and during our monthly meeting PANZA appeared with the drug test. After we were all told we had to pee in a cup I let them know that this was not fair and I will not submit. They were told that I felt I should be allowed to remain in camp and that I have not done anything wrong! PANZA bullied us into signing a code of conduct that stated we would not use any drugs/alcohol and be willing to take a drug test if requested. I have a feeling they were not technically allowed to ask for us to get a drug test.

Everyone else in camp took the test. PANZA remarked that the first test is a "freebie", that if we fail then we would be given a second chance to pass. So, here I am with six days remaining to find somewhere to live. The week I was in camp the weather was quite nice. Now the clouds are turning dark and rain is forecast to linger for the week. Once again I am out on the street trying to get set up in rain.

I am not mad, nor am I resentful. If the Church or PANZA feels this is the best option, I can respect that. All I ask for from the host church, PANZA, and the community is to have a little understanding and leeway. This is a problem. I wish and hope for a sound solution to surface.

Understanding Congress' vote for "Health Care Reform"

By Glen Anderson

What is said vs. what is done

Many of the people who hold formal positions of great power in government and business are skilled at doing two things at once. **They make public pronouncements that resonate with broadly held public values, while at the same time they are enacting policies that favor special interests over the broad public interest.**

The struggle for Health Care Reform is an excellent case study. A few months ago health insurance companies' stock prices rose sharply the day after the Democrats' plan passed one house of Congress, because they knew big profits would be coming their way. This happened again on Monday March 22 immediately after the U.S. House of Representatives voted for the Democrats' plan. Overall, since Congress released the first of its health care bills on October 30, 2009, health care stocks have risen more than 28%. The capitalists know a good thing when they see it!

Republicans and Democrats alike refuse to eliminate this waste because they are funded by the very same big businesses that caused the problem.

Republicans denounce the Democrats' health insurance legislation as "socialism," but it actually is unbridled capitalism.

Over the years we have seen governments pull a slick trick. They address a public issue that everybody knows is broken, and they devise a conservative law which they call "reform." Without studying the specifics, the public allows bad legislation to pass in the name of "reform."

The deeply flawed bill that passed is nothing for Democrats – and certainly not progressives – to cheer. On Monday March 22 Republican tactician David Frum wrote, "The Obama plan has a broad family resemblance to [Republican Governor] Mitt Romney's Massachusetts plan. It builds on ideas developed at the [very conservative] Heritage Foundation in the early 1990s that formed the basis for Republican counter-proposals to Clintoncare in 1993-1994."

So here is how the game was played

Republicans kept moving to the right. This opened up space in the middle of the road, which the Democratic Party filled, while rebuffing the progressives whom the Democratic Party takes for granted because progressives have no place else to go in an electoral system rigged to serve only two parties.

So Democrats wrote a "reform" law that actually mimics Republicans' persistent support for big business, which has been funding both big political parties. Insurance and pharmaceutical companies spent hundreds of millions of dollars on campaign contributions, lobbying, and advertising to shape the legislation. The original Senate Finance Committee bill was written by a former vice president of WellPoint, a giant insurance company. The bill that passed on March 21 is almost identical to the plan written in 2009 by AHIP, the insurance company trade association.

Then Democrats rigged Congress's voting procedures to pass the bill, and they claimed a victory for doing what Big Business paid them to do. And the insurance and pharmaceutical companies got a 1,000-to-1 return of hundreds of *billions* of dollars for the hundreds of *millions* they spent on advertising, campaign contributions, and lobbying.

Insurance companies are the *problem*, not the solution

Of course, everybody knows that our health care system is broken. The US's health care is by far the most expensive in the world, but we lag behind a great many countries in access, outcomes, and other measures of effectiveness. (The World Health Organization ranked us 37th.) What makes US health care so expensive, yet so ineffective?

Our system is bogged down with insurance companies that rip off approximately 25%-30% of our health care dollars without providing any real health care. Other national governments pay for their health care directly, without insurance companies' overhead.

The public, media and politicians all talk about "reforming" our health care system, but they are only tinkering around the edges so long as they ignore this elephant in the room. Republicans and Democrats alike refuse to eliminate this waste because they are funded by the very same big businesses that caused the problem.

The real solution is to eliminate health insurance companies altogether. If we had a "single-payer" system, you could choose whatever health care providers you want and simply get your health care services. The providers would bill the government directly. The government would be the "single payer" with tremendous economies of scale. **The "single-payer" solution would protect your choice (which insurance companies don't allow), streamline the process, and save hundreds of billions of dollars!**

The current system of capitalistically owned insurance companies is terribly wasteful. Each insurance company has its own bureaucracy, its own rules, its own payment rates, its own claim forms, its own overpaid executives, its own advertising, and its own high profits. Patients and medical providers waste terrible amounts of time figuring out how to navigate those many redundant systems.

Insurance companies make profits by collecting more money than they pay out. Their employees devise ways to deny coverage, so sick people can't get the health care they need. **Our insurance premium dollars pay corporate bureaucrats to work against our own interests!**

In 2009, 1.5 million Americans declared bankruptcy, and 62% of these were at least partly because of medical costs. Three fourths of them had health insurance. The new legislation still leaves 24 million Americans without insurance.

The Democrats' bill was written so that taxpayers will have to pay much of the cost of health insurance for employees of Wal-Mart and other employers that provide skimpy coverage.

On March 21 the US House of Representatives passed a bill that was 2,700 pages long. The single-payer bill that Congress refused to consider was only 30 pages long.

The rhetoric from Obama and Democrats talked about helping the American people and holding insurance companies accountable. But when writing the legislation they deliberately and consistently excluded advocates for the single-payer solution.

This legislation fails to control costs or insurance companies

A single-payer system would achieve economies of scale in administering the program. It would have the power to require low prices from pharmaceutical companies and hospitals. The Democrats' legislation fails on all counts.

Remember when Bush was developing his Medicare drug benefit bill? He cut a back-room deal with Big Pharma to prevent the US government from negotiating lower prices for drugs. Obama did the same thing! This new law also prevents people from importing from Canada the drugs that are cheaper but just as safe as those produced by US drug companies. It allows a special subsidy for brand name drugs, but not for cheaper generics, which are just as effective.

This bill does not meaningfully control costs or limit insurance rate hikes. If your insurance company treats you badly, you can use its "internal appeals process," which simply allows the company to review its own decision. After that you're at the mercy of the state government. There is no funding or regulatory mechanism for federal enforcement. The bill also exempts insurance companies from federal anti-trust laws.

Many members of Congress – especially those empowered to write health care legislation – receive huge campaign contributions from insurance companies and Big Pharma. Senator Max Baucus, chair of the Senate Finance Committee, actually had a former vice president of the insurance company WellPoint write much of the bill he forced through his committee.

No, it's NOT a "first step" to be improved later

Some people admit that this bill is weak, and that we can improve the bill later. **Actually, this bill will set back or even destroy the movement for real reform.**

Now is the historical moment when the public is pushing real health care reform. The bulk of this law won't go into effect for several years. If people want to improve this weak law, the Democrats will simply tell people to wait a few years to let the new law work. After a year of weakening this bill in many ways, Congress will *not* start passing strong progressive alternatives that rebuff what they just finished.

When it does go into effect, it will be grossly inadequate and too expensive. Then when people advocate for single-payer, politicians and the media and large portions of the public will tell us, "We've tried government health care system, and it didn't work." **This new law undermines the movement for the public option or**

▸ **CONTINUED** on next page

New health care legislation fails to meet nation's needs

One of the nation's biggest supporters of the single-payer solution is Physicians for a National Health Program, www.pnhp.org. On Monday March 22, the day after the House vote – they issued a statement calling for a single-payer solution and identifying these defects in the new law:

Instead of eliminating the root of the problem – the profit-driven, private health insurance industry – this costly new legislation will enrich and further entrench these firms. The bill would require millions of Americans to buy private insurers' defective products, and turn over to them vast amounts of public money.

The hype surrounding the new health bill is belied by the facts:

- About 23 million people will remain uninsured nine years out. That figure translates into an estimated 23,000 unnecessary deaths annually and an incalculable toll of suffering.
- Millions of middle-income people will be pressured to buy commercial health insurance policies costing up to 9.5 percent of their income but covering an average of only 70 percent of their medical expenses, potentially leaving them vulnerable to financial ruin if they become seriously ill. Many will find such policies too expensive to afford or, if they do buy them, too expensive to use because of the high co-pays and deductibles.
- Insurance firms will be handed at least $447 billion in taxpayer money to subsidize the purchase of their shoddy products. This money will enhance their financial and political power, and with it their ability to block future reform.
- The bill will drain about $40 billion from Medicare payments to safety-net hospitals, threatening the care of the tens of millions who will remain uninsured.
- People with employer-based coverage will be locked into their plan's limited network of providers, face ever-rising costs and erosion of their health benefits. Many, even most, will eventually face steep taxes on their benefits as the cost of insurance grows.
- Health care costs will continue to skyrocket, as the experience with the Massachusetts plan (after which this bill is patterned) amply demonstrates.
- The much-vaunted insurance regulations – e.g. ending denials on the basis of pre-existing conditions – are riddled with loopholes, thanks to the central role that insurers played in crafting the legislation. Older people can be charged up to three times more than their younger counterparts, and large companies with a predominantly female workforce can be charged higher gender-based rates at least until 2017.
- Women's reproductive rights will be further eroded, thanks to the burdensome segregation of insurance funds for abortion and for all other medical services.

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single-payer or other real reform.

The argument to pass this weak bill now reminds me of people who are so desperate to get married that they "settle" for somebody who is a terrible spouse. A bad marriage is worse than no marriage at all.

Pass this weak bill now and fix it later? People who marry a bad partner with hopes of reforming them later nearly always fail.

So it is with this pro-capitalist bill. After the public pressure is off, don't expect Congress to suddenly develop courage and pass progressive solutions.

The few good parts (e.g., prohibiting insurance companies from denying people with pre-existing conditions) are so popular that they would have passed easily as stand-alone bills with overwhelming bi-partisan support. This bill, which half of the population hates, has delayed by a year the passage of those few good parts.

A great many liberal and progressive individuals and organizations settled for this inadequate legislation. Many of them know it is bad, but they chose to settle for something weak because they knew the corrupt Congress refuses to do any better.

This is yet another reason why we need to get big money out of election campaigns. Democrats are every bit as guilty as Republicans in being corrupted by campaign contributions. We must substitute public funding for campaigns instead of funding by the special interests. We must also reach beyond the two big parties for candidates who offer fresh progressive alternatives that address the real underlying problems.

In the U.S., liberals timidly ask what is "politically feasible" and ask for small changes that the political parties and giant corporations could be persuaded to grant us. In Latin America, people demand bold reforms and agitate actively. In the U.S., our modest reforms are watered down and deferred. If we want real progress, we must be more like the Latin Americans.

Glen Anderson has worked for peace, social & economic justice, and nonviolence for 40 years, including the past 35 years in Olympia.

The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas

By Martha Koester

The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas (Variations on a theme by William James) is a short story by Ursula K. Le Guin. It won the Hugo Award (in science fiction) for short stories in 1974.

In the story, Omelas is a utopian city of happiness and delight, whose inhabitants are smart and cultured. Everything about Omelas is pleasing, except for the secret of the city: the good fortune of Omelas requires that a single unfortunate child be kept in perpetual filth, darkness and misery, and that all her citizens should be told of this on coming of age.

After being exposed to the truth, most of the people of Omelas are initially shocked and disgusted, but are ultimately able to come to terms with the fact and resolve to live their lives in such a manner as to make the suffering of the unfortunate child worth it. However, some few of the citizens, young or old, silently walk away from the city, and no one knows where they go. The story ends with "The place they go towards is a place even less imaginable to us than the city of happiness. I cannot describe it at all. It is possible it does not exist. But they seem to know where they are going, the ones who walk away from Omelas."

You can read the story in its entirety at http://harelbarzilai.org/words/omelas.txt. The following is a brief excerpt—

"In a basement under one of the beautiful public buildings of Omelas, or perhaps in the cellar of one of its spacious private homes, there is a room. It has one locked door, and no window. A little light seeps in dustily between cracks in the boards, secondhand from a cobwebbed window somewhere across the cellar. In one corner of the little room a couple of mops, with stiff, clotted, foul-smelling heads, stand near a rusty bucket. The floor is dirt, a little damp to the touch, as cellar dirt usually is.

"The room is about three paces long and two wide: a mere broom closet or disused tool room. In the room, a child is sitting. It could be a boy or a girl. It looks about six, but actually is nearly ten. It is feeble-minded. Perhaps it was born defective, or perhaps it has become imbecile through fear, malnutrition, and neglect.

"They all know it is there, all the people of Omelas. Some of them have come to see it, others are content merely to know it is there. They all know that it has to be there. Some of them understand why, and some do not, but they all understand that their happiness, the beauty of their city, the tenderness of their friendships, the health of their children, the wisdom of their scholars, the skill of their makers, even the abundance of their harvest and the kindly weathers of their skies, depend wholly on this child's abominable misery."

Le Guin's commentary—
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Ones_Who_Walk_Away_from_Omelas

"The central idea of this psychomyth, the scapegoat", writes Le Guin, "turns up in Dostoyevsky's Brothers Karamazov, and several people have asked me, rather suspiciously, why I gave the credit to William James. The fact is, I haven't been able to re-read Dostoyevsky, much as I loved him, since I was twenty-five, and I'd simply forgotten he used the idea. But when I met it in James's The Moral Philosopher and the Moral Life, it was with a shock of recognition."

The quote from William James is:

"Or if the hypothesis were offered us of a world in which Messrs. Fourier's and Bellamy's and Morris's utopias should all be outdone, and millions kept permanently happy on the one simple condition that a certain lost soul on the far-off edge of things should lead a life of lonely torture, what except a specific and independent sort of emotion can it be which would make us immediately feel, even though an impulse arose within us to clutch at the happiness so offered, how hideous a thing would be its enjoyment when deliberately accepted as the fruit of such a bargain?"

Le Guin hit upon the name of the town on seeing a road sign for Salem, Oregon, in a car mirror. "[... People ask me] 'Where do you get your ideas from, Ms. Le Guin?' From forgetting Dostoyevsky and reading road signs backwards, naturally. Where else?"

We all are living in Omelas right now. I'm sure that, given all the recent on-line debates over the current health care bill, it's pretty obvious where I'm going with this. According to the best of our American values, what we should have gotten was what citizens in every other part of the developed world take for granted—access to health care for all citizens, no exceptions. Apparently the best we can manage is eventual access to inadequate insurance for most of us, and what we got reflects our very worst values, chief of which is that your access to health care should depend only on how much money you have. Our brave new call to solidarity is "An injury to one is, after all, only an injury to one. Just ignore it and count your blessings."

Yes, with more subsidized access to insurance, even inadequate insurance, fewer will die. Given that in nine years 35 million will still lack such access, instead of 46,000 dying a year, there will be 15,000 or fewer dying nine years from now. Kids with pre-existing conditions will no longer be denied coverage as of right now, but their parents will have to wait until 2014. Young adults 23-26 can remain on their parents' plan, except for those whose parents don't have insurance, can't afford to add them, or kicked them out of the house years ago.

We have indeed made a start on emptying out our room full of non-persons, though we are nowhere near getting the number down to one as the fictional citizens of Omelas did. You see the big problem with the slowly emptying room, I hope. The lower the number of people still in it, the easier it will be for everybody else to ignore them permanently.

That has been our biggest political problem in trying to achieve universal health care all along—about 85% of us are never going to get really expensively sick. 5% of the population in every age group accounts for 50% of the health care expenses for that group. 15% account for 85%, and line of least resistance for the remaining mostly healthy 85% is to just ignore the unfortunates hidden in the basement. The healthy majority remains free to think that such insurance as they have is probably pretty good, an opinion about as well-informed as their opinions about how good their fire extinguishers are. 46,000 dead is less than a tenth of a percent of the population; 350,000 bankruptcies amounts to only 1% of the population. According to the California Nurses, 21% of claims are denied, which means that four out of five are not denied. If most people are just fine, it's very easy to ignore the small minority who are not.

No, I am not happy at all about "reform," and even the batshit crazy sociopathology of its right wing opponents doesn't change that for me. Le Guin's fictional solution of just leaving Omelas won't work for me either, though it has for people like one of the former chairs of Health Care for All-WA. Dr. Bramhall used to be the only MD psychiatrist in Washington State who would see Medicaid patients. Her reimbursements had dwindled for years. She gave up her car and moved to an apartment on Pill Hill near her practice to save money and keep helping the desperate people she worked with. Eventually, she could not afford health care for herself, a very bad situation for someone of late middle age to be in. Luckily for her, New Zealand was very happy to pay for her health care in exchange for making her professional skills available to their population.

Permanently breaking down the door to the basement room is the only thing that will get everybody out of our Room of Non-Persons. I truly believe that most of the people cheering in the streets for the release of some fully intend to go back down at some time or another for the rest. But, based on quite a bit of past history, if that were really likely to happen Le Guin would never have felt the need to write her story at all.

Martha Koester is a Seattle single payer activist. She is active in the Democratic Party, and a board member of Health Care for All-WA.

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Fri., April 9, 7pm: Jesse Freeston, video journalist of The Real News Network, who broke the story on the election fraud in Honduras. Seminar 2 E1107
Sat., April 10, 9am: Over ten workshops covering Latin American solidarity and immigration. Seminar 2 E1107 & other rooms. 4pm: Carlos Martinez, coauthor of "Venezuela Speaks! Voices from the Grassroots," Seminar 2 E1107
Sun. April 11, 9am: More great workshops covering Latin American solidarity and immigration. Seminar 2 E1107 & other rooms. 2pm: Father Roy Bourgeois, founder of School of the Americas Watch and Nobel Peace Prize Nominee. Lecture Hall 1
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▸ **JUSTICE,** continued from page 1

rights observers within a seven week period by the IDF in Rafah, all of whom were documenting civilian home demolitions on the border between Gaza and Egypt. They pointed to the intimidation of internationals and Palestinian municipal water workers trying to repair community wells the IDF had destroyed in Rafah; finally, the wider context of the mass demolition of thousands of homes in Rafah was itself evidence of precisely such intimidation and coercion of a civilian population—and on a scale that was truly colossal.

But, echoing U.S. Attorney McKay, Sabin told them there was no reason to do an investigation unless there was an ability to prosecute, and that would require certification by the U.S. Attorney General.

The family would meet once more with Justice Dept. officials Sabin and Michael Mullaney, more than a year later, who informed them that the only applicable statute was Title 18, 2332, which required that Rachel's killing come under the rubric of a "serious, violent attack on a U.S. citizen or U.S. interests." But Justice wasn't going to pursue an investigation under Title 18, because, as Mullaney explained, they had to go back to the original intent of Congress in that statute, which meant it to apply only to "terrorist" attacks on Americans.

Cindy says, "I really asked the question twice: 'Are you saying that no matter what amount of evidence we bring to you there will never be a U.S. investigation into Rachel's killing?' And Barry Sabin said, 'I never say never, but no.' And their daughter Sarah said, 'Even if we could show intent?' And he nodded."

Sabin counseled that the criminal justice system was not the means to solve all problems. He suggested to the family that perhaps the play, "My Name is Rachel Corrie", was the best way to address the issue.

We've seen how the Corries reached a dead end with the Israeli government, then the U.S. Congress, then the Executive branch (the State Dept and Justice Dept). Finally, they attempted to use the U.S. court system, namely with their lawsuit against the Caterpillar corporation. It was this suit, I think, that subjected the Corries to the most widespread criticism and abuse in the mainstream media, which continues even now.

Just a couple of weeks ago, the *Seattle Weekly* ran an article, and recapped the effort to sue Caterpillar. The reporter solicited the view of exactly one commentator, namely the Likudnik extremist Alan Dershowitz, identified only as a "Harvard civil rights lawyer," who ridiculed the Caterpillar suit with the quip that it "made the McDonald's hot coffee suit seem like Brown v. Board of Education." Now, Dershowitz's fanatical support for the Israeli Right was not mentioned, and readers were spared details of some of his other views, for example his advocacy of the U.S. government issuing "torture warrants" to extract information from suspects. But somehow he qualifies as a "civil rights" lawyer. As a Harvard man, though, he's no barbarian. He is careful to advocate only methods of torture that won't inflict permanent bodily damage—so he suggests needles driven under the fingernails, or drilling into the roots of the suspect's teeth, like Dr. Zell in *Marathon Man*. Anyway, the press thinks he is qualified to make wisecracks about the Corries.

At a weight of more than 60 tons with its armored plating, the Caterpillar D9 bulldozer that killed Rachel is designed to destroy a reinforced concrete house in a matter of minutes. More than 70,000 Palestinians have seen their homes destroyed by the IDF since the occupation began, and some 1,600 of these homes were demolished in Rafah alone, between 2000 and 2004. The wholesale destruction of neighborhoods on pretexts that were at best flimsy had long attracted the condemnation of the major human rights organizations, and executives at Caterpillar could hardly claim innocence in the controversy. Rights groups had spent the previous twenty years making appeals about grave breaches of the Fourth Geneva Convention, to no effect.

In April 2002, the home of Mahmoud Omar Al Sho'bi was bulldozed to rubble in the middle of the night, without warning, in the West Bank town of Nablus. Perishing inside were his father Umar, his sisters Fatima and Abir, his brother Samir and pregnant sister-in-law Nabila, and their three children, Anas, Azzam and Abdallah, ages 4, 7, and 9. In 2005, the Corries joined Mahmoud and four other Palestinian families as plaintiffs in the lawsuit against Caterpillar.

Rights groups had spent the previous twenty years making appeals about grave breaches of the Fourth Geneva Convention, to no effect.

The suit charged not only wrongful death, public nuisance and negligence, but that Caterpillar violated international and federal law by selling the bulldozers to the IDF despite its knowledge of their intended, unlawful use. In doing so, claimed the lawsuit, Caterpillar aided and abetted war crimes such as collective punishment and destruction of civilian property. The suit didn't get far.

Judge Franklin D. Burgess in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington dismissed the case without even permitting discovery or hearing oral argument. Most shockingly, he held that a company cannot be held liable for selling its products—merely knowing they will assist war crimes—unless it actually intended that the war crimes be committed. So by analogy, a damage suit on behalf of someone killed in an out-of-control Toyota would have to show not only that the company knew the car was faulty, but that it made the accelerator stick because it wanted to kill its customers.

Well, the case was appealed up to the Ninth Circuit Court. Just as the Court was set to issue its ruling, the Justice Dept. weighed in on the matter with a late friend-of-the-court brief — standing with Caterpillar, and against the Corrie plaintiffs. In the brief, the U.S. first tried to strike at the very right of the victims to use the courts. It said there should be no liability for aiding and abetting human rights violations under the two statutes germane to this suit, namely the Alien Torts Statute of 1789, and the Torture Victims Protection Act of 1992. (These Acts are some of the principal foundations of individuals' access to U.S. courts in cases of human rights violations.)

Then, in the same brief, the government declared (without submitting evidence) that it had reimbursed Israel for the cost of the bulldozers. Therefore, went its argument, to hold the company liable would be to implicate U.S. foreign policy itself in criminal violations. Foreign policy being the prerogative largely of the Executive branch, the Court lacked jurisdiction. To hear the case would be a breach of the separation of powers.

Incredibly, the Ninth Circuit embraced this "foreign policy" argument, and in September, 2007 affirmed the dismissal of the suit.

The Corries' legal team was led by Maria LaHood, Senior Attorney with the Center for Constitutional Rights. She said that courts usually reject this kind of "foreign policy" challenge, because they don't really involve a genuine "separation of powers" conflict.

I quote her from an interview: "Here we have private parties suing Caterpillar for war crimes and other violations, and way off to the side we have the possibility that the U.S. is paying for the bulldozers. It's so far attenuated that it is a stretch to call this a political question. We allege violations of international law. That's what the court's role is—to adjudicate. Take this to its logical extension: you sue corporations, foreign officials, foreign governments, and anytime it may be a party that receives aid from the U.S. government, it somehow interferes with U.S. foreign policy? That just can't be."

One of the Corrie family's motives in pursuing the current lawsuit in Israel is their belief that they would be able to use the discovery process to compel the release of evidence. But a good deal of what they sought has been withheld on State Secrets grounds. Israel even tried to block the entry into the country of the four ISM eyewitnesses for the Corrie's testimony. They relented under pressure from the State Department, but they have still prevented the Palestinian doctor who first treated Rachel at the hospital in Gaza from traveling to Haifa for a trial. The U.S. ambassador to Israel pressured them to allow him to testify by video hookup, and just the day before yesterday the trial judge ordered the government to allow this. Meanwhile, Israel has repeatedly raided the office of the ISM in recent weeks, confiscating computers and other materials.

These, in conclusion, have been the official actions both of the Israeli government and regrettably, our own. Understanding this history makes it clear just how Herculean have been the tasks the Corrie family has set for themselves. Over these last seven years, they have traveled around the country and around the world, inspired millions through their actions, through the play My Name is Rachel Corrie, through the book Let Me Stand Alone. They have kept Rachel's memory alive, and they have bound her name and theirs forever to the cause of justice for the Palestinians. I honor them tonight, on this sad anniversary.

Parts of this talk are adapted from an article by the author which appeared on counterpunch.org on March 16, 2008. Tom Wright directed the 1997 documentary "Checkpoint: the Palestinians After Oslo." He can be reached at tomwright59@comcast.net.

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Local citizens group gives suggestions to city development plan

The following is an open letter to the Members of the Olympia City Council by the Olympia Climate Action.

Olympia Climate Action applauds the City's efforts to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change, and is pleased to provide the attached recommendations for inclusion in the Comprehensive Plan that is currently being updated. We believe this is only the beginning of a process to include climate change in the City's planning documents, maps, and regulations. We also recognize that more work needs to be done to refine these recommendations and that some of them may already be included in long-range planning documents. Nonetheless, these recommendations reflect the current thoughts and feelings of a segment of the population that is well aware of and concerned about the future of Olympia and of the natural world upon which we depend. We therefore ask that you consider the spirit of our recommendations, as strongly as our words.

There is no doubt in our minds that we face very difficult land use challenges ahead as we struggle to respond to climate change, increasing oil prices related to "peak oil," and increasing population growth. We no longer have the luxury of time to address these challenges – their effects will be felt shortly and we must plan for them now, in spite of the lack of resources to do so. We therefore urge the City Council to adopt climate change as a top priority in its work-plan, and to direct the Olympia Planning Commission and Community Planning Department to include the attached recommendations in the Comprehensive Plan update. Our overarching recommendation to the City is to appoint a Climate Action Task Force, begin a community education program on Climate Change, and complete the agreed-upon ICLEI Five Milestone Process.

The State Legislature has adopted, and the Governor has signed, legislation that commits the State of Washington to reducing statewide greenhouse gas emissions to levels below those of 1990. These targets cannot be met unless the City recognizes the importance of this effort and commits to these reductions as well. We stand ready to assist the City in any way we can, and are already providing a considerable amount of volunteer support through Olympia Climate Action, the Thurston Climate Action Team, Transition Olympia, and the Cool Thurston Campaign. We are also coordinating with city and county planners who have been assigned climate change work, and we are working to attract additional resources to this effort. We will continue to offer recommendations as the planning process moves forward, and we urge your continued attention to and support of this critical work. Thank you.

Olympia Climate Action Comments on Comprehensive Plan Update

Our recommendations were compiled from comments offered by volunteers involved in "Olympia Climate Action," a local group of citizens involved in outreach and education on various aspects of climate change, and from members of the public who attended the public meeting on sea-level rise at the Olympia Center on Jan. 10.

Recommendations are grouped under specific headings, such as "Sea-Level Rise and Climate Change," "Energy," "Natural Resources," etc., and are preceded by a summary of the impacts of climate change on those subjects, as identified by the City of Olympia Public Works Department in its 2007 report Olympia's Response to the Challenge of Climate Change. That report includes a summary of the effects of climate change in Table 5, "Key Climate Change Impacts in South Puget Sound."

Our overarching recommendation to the City is to appoint a Climate Action Task Force, begin a community education program on Climate Change and complete the agreed upon ICLEI Five Milestone Process.

Sea Level Rise & Climate Change

Summary of impacts:

Increased coastal erosion. Inundation of low-lying areas. Loss of coastal wetlands and shoreline habitats. Increased risk of contamination from coastal hazardous waste sites. Loss of near-shore habitat and coastal wetlands where sufficient space for habitat migration is not available. Shifts in species range and distribution. Loss of species unable to adapt. Increased competition from invasive species. Potential impacts or benefits to marine food webs from wind-driven changes in coastal and offshore ocean conditions.

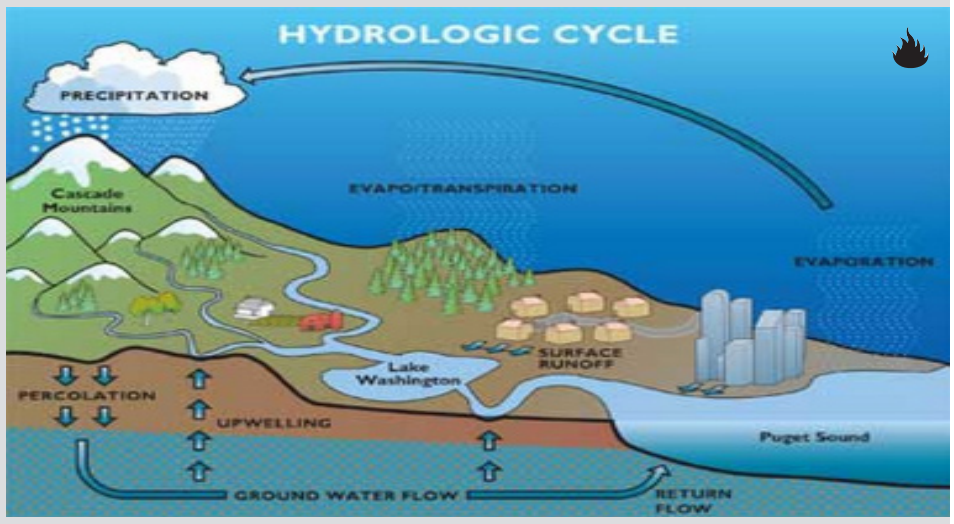
Recommendations:

Add the elements of sea level rise and climate change as separate chapters in the Comprehensive Plan, Zoning, Building and Land Use requirements.

Conduct a cost-comparison of building the infrastructure needed to protect existing buildings from sea level rise versus purchasing property and letting it return to its natural state as sea level rise occurs.

Minimize the area that needs to be protected from sea level rise.

Place a moratorium on building anything in areas subject to flooding at high tide at the expected sea level in 2100 (22-ft. Tide).



What is the hydrologic cycle?

The hydrologic — or water — cycle is the continuous movement of water between the earth and the atmosphere. Water reaches land as precipitation such as rain and snow. Then the water evaporates, condenses in the atmosphere to form clouds, and falls to the earth again as precipitation, continuing the cycle.

When water falls to the ground it can collect on the land becoming streams, rivers, lakes, or soaks in to the ground to become groundwater. Plants take up groundwater either using it or releasing it to the atmosphere.

Why is the hydrologic cycle important?

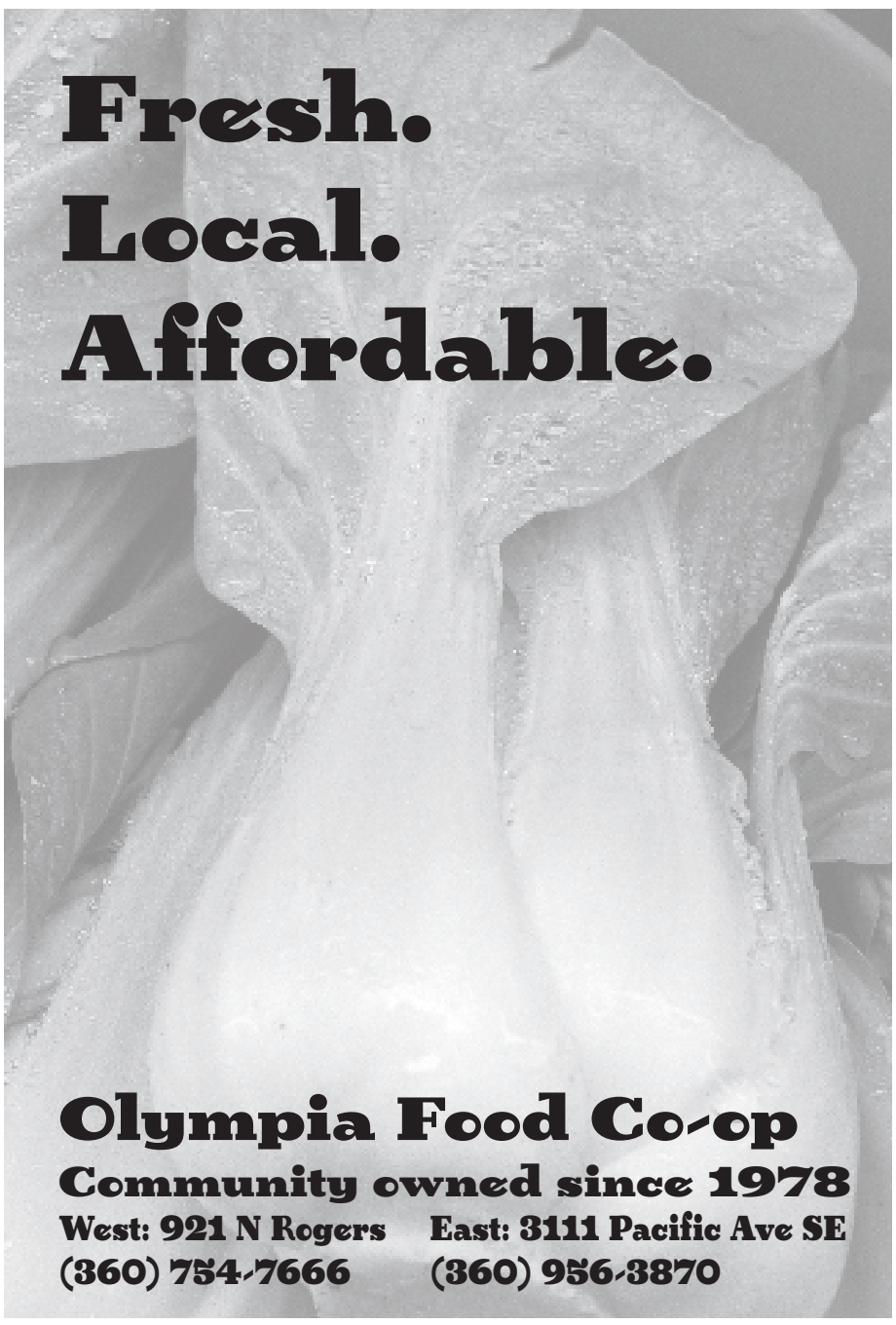
The hydrologic cycle is important because it is how water reaches plants, animals and us! Besides providing people, animals and plants with water, it also moves things like nutrients, pathogens and sediment in and out of aquatic ecosystems.

Ways in which the hyrdologic cycle is affected-

One of the ways that water moves through the cycle is through its ability to permeate, or soak, into the soil. There are four key areas that impact that part of the cycle:

- *changes in the ability of soil to soak up water through increases of impervious surfaces, like roads and buildings, and removal of forest cover;*
- *water withdrawals or impoundments (such as through wells or dams)*
- *filling depressional wetlands; and*
- *altering stream flows and beds.*

Shorelines and Sea-Level Rise: What Can We Expect?
Monday, April 12
7:00 pm - 9:30 pm
Olympia Center, 222 Columbia St. NW
Downtown Olympia



A brief interview with City of Olympia's Andy Haub

A little dialogue between Mike Coday and Andy Haub for the City of Olympia. Mr. Haub is an employee of the Public Works Department.

Mike Coday: *Is the response to sea level rise seen as primarily a local, State or federal responsibility?*

Andy Haub: The best answer is all three. State and federal entities can be expected to set some direction as well as specific requirements including floodplain determinations. On the other hand, local jurisdictions are responsible for implementing various requirements from above as well as overseeing and regulating land uses. We are currently responding to climate change issues as a local initiative while using the science and planning guidance provided by the State and UW. You might also use the UW Climate Impacts Group website as a reference (cses.washington.edu/cig/). You can find a fair amount of Olympia-specific climate change and sea level rise information on the City webpage: http://olympiawa.gov/community/sustainability/climate-change.aspx

Mike Coday: *What active plans does the City have in the work to address sea level rise? Tidal locks, pumps? Sea wall?*

Andy Haub: Last year, we completed a technical analysis of the interactions between land elevations, high tides, storm events, and potential sea rise. In the months to come, the Olympia Planning Commission and City Council will consider including climate change issues in upcoming revisions to the Comprehensive Plan (refer to the City webpage olympiawa.gov/imagine-olympia.aspx). In the meantime, public projects such as the reconstruction of Pervical Landing will be raising elevations and modifying stormwater outfalls to Budd Inlet.

Mike Coday: *Does it make sense to be building in any land that could be under water in a 22 foot tide in 2100?*

Andy Haub: That's your call-----

Mike Coday: *I know what my call is on that question, but I am asking you, as a person paid to plan around these questions, to give us your call on this question. Your opinion on the question is the one that matters to the public here. So, please, go on the record, do you think it makes sense to building in the 22 foot tide zone?*

Andy Haub: I support downtown Olympia.....always have and I suspect that I always will. So, yes, I support building in downtown Olympia. I also support planning for and adapting to climate change as well as encouraging the local community to understand the issues we will potentially face.

In This Issue

1 Rachel Corrie lawsuit begins
4 More military shipments?
5 International law and Afghanistan
6 What's up at Camp Quixote?
8 Understanding "Obamacare"
11 Action on climate change

20 YEARS

And with this issue, *Works In Progress* completes 20 years of all-volunteer service to the social justice community in Olympia.

COMING NEXT MONTH:

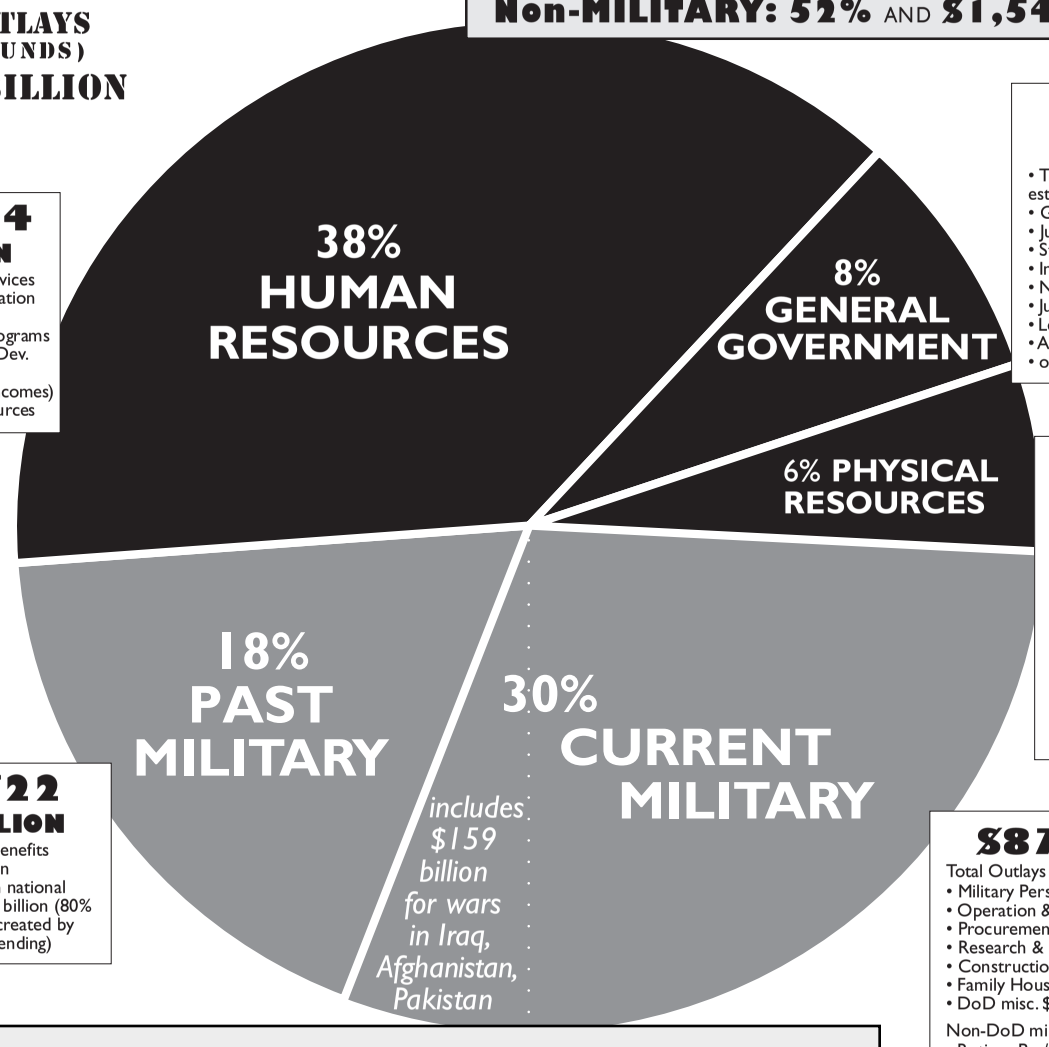
The *Works In Progress* 20th anniversary extravaganza! Don't miss it!

WHERE YOUR INCOME TAX MONEY REALLY GOES

U.S. FEDERAL BUDGET **2011** FISCAL YEAR

TOTAL OUTLAYS (FEDERAL FUNDS) $2,945 BILLION

Non-MILITARY: 52% AND $1,547 BILLION


38% HUMAN RESOURCES
8% GENERAL GOVERNMENT
6% PHYSICAL RESOURCES
18% PAST MILITARY
30% CURRENT MILITARY
includes $159 billion for wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan

$1,134 BILLION
- Health/Human Services
- Soc. Sec. Administration
- Education Dept.
- Food/Nutrition programs
- Housing & Urban Dev.
- Labor Dept.
- Tax Credits (lower incomes)
- other human resources

$241 BILLION
- Treasury, incl. 20% Interest on debt ($100B)
- Government personnel
- Justice Dept.
- State Dept. (partial)
- International Affairs
- NASA (50%)
- Judicial
- Legislative
- Allowances (proposals)
- other general govt.

$171 BILLION
- Agriculture
- Interior
- Transportation
- Homeland Security (42%)
- HUD
- Commerce
- Energy (non-military)
- Environmental Protection
- Nat. Science Fdtn.
- Army Corps Engineers
- Fed. Comm. Commission
- other physical resources

$522 BILLION
- Veterans' Benefits $123 billion
- Interest on national debt $399 billion (80% est. to be created by military spending)

$876 BILLION

Total Outlays DoD $721 billion:
- Military Personnel $159 billion
- Operation & Maint. $319 billion
- Procurement $141 billion
- Research & Dev. $78 billion
- Construction $19 billion
- Family Housing $3 billion
- DoD misc. $2 billion

Non-DoD military spending includes*:
- Retiree Pay/Healthcare $65 billion
- DoE nuke weapons/clean up $20 billion
- NASA (50%) $9 billion
- International Security $15 billion
- Homeland Secur. (defense) $40 billion
- State Dept. (partial) $7 billion
- FBI military $4 billion
- Intrafund transfers -$5 billion

**analysis includes non-DoD activity based on coding and on the military nature of the activity, such as armed agents on flights, border control, DoD space flights, etc.*

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